



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
July 8, 2009

Contact: Rodney Mallett
Phone: 225-219-3964

Ethel Man Sentenced to 24 Months Criminal Probation for Illegally Burning Tires

BATON ROUGE – Brian Hawkins, 23, a resident of Ethel, pled guilty to the criminal charge of illegal discharge of a hazardous substance by the unauthorized burning tires. He was sentenced to 24 months probation, six months in the parish prison, which was suspended, and to pay a criminal fine of \$500 plus court costs.

On May 12, 2009, Hawkins pled guilty and was sentenced to this charge before Judge William G. Carmichael. On May 21, 2008, an East Feliciana deputy observed the illegal burning of 75-100 tires at the corner of Hawkins Lane and Highway 955, in Ethel. The deputy reported this to DEQ Criminal Investigation Division and a formal investigation was conducted. Hawkins later admitted during this investigation to investigators that he started the fire. Hawkins was in the scrap metal business. He set the tires ablaze in an effort to separate the metal rims from the tires rather than properly disposing of the tires at a permitted location.

“The knowing illegal disposal of tires is a potential hazard to our neighbors and our community, and CID will respond to all such complaints,” said Kelly Phillips, DEQ-CID Environmental Project Analyst.

“Illegal burning of tires, even in small quantities, may warrant criminal sanctions especially when conducted in populated areas,” said Mike Daniels, attorney for DEQ-CID.

If you witness any illegal activities which may impact the environment, please contact DEQ toll free at 1-888-763-5424 or DEQ-CID at 225-219-3944.

The case was handled by DEQ-CID, East Feliciana Sheriff’s Office, and by the East Feliciana Parish District Attorney’s Office.